Roxbury, March 4, 1879.

My dear Wendell:

Yesterday I called at the establishment of Weeks & Potter to see if I could learn anything concerning a likeness of old Dr. Samuel Thomson, the founder of the Thomsonian practice. I was referred to Mr. Cheney, a wholesale and retail dealer in botanical medicines in Union Street, and who, I found, had in his boyhood been in the employment of Dr. Thomson. He at once handed me a large volume, published several years ago by the Doctor, with reference to the treatment that goes by his name; and an excellent portrait of the Doctor constituted the frontispiece. I remember his features very distinctly. Mr. Cheney readily loaned me the volume, which I promised to return to him safely.

I immediately hurried to Adams's Express Office, and had it forwarded to your address. No doubt it will be put into your hands in the course of to-day. You can return it at your leisure. Dr. Thomson was one of the remarkable men of this century, and is entitled to a position with the benefactors and martyrs of all past time; for he was for a long time persecuted in the most shameful manner, especially by physicians of the old school, who were as ignorant of the wonderful medicinal properties of certain roots and herbs as they were of the spirit with which he pursued his investigations. Though but slightly educated in any other school than that of Nature, his perceptive, analytical and reasoning faculties were uncommonly large; and animated by the one controlling desire to bless and save the sick and suffering, he was not to be deterred from his humane purpose by any amount of abuse or misrepresentation,

He charged the medical treatment of tens of thousands before his death; and though there are now few infirmaries called by his name, the sale of botanical medicines continues to be very widely extended. His book is a storehouse of botanical information, obtained by unwearied experiment and observation.

I have been invited by Cyrus W. Field to attend a gathering at his residence in Gramercy Park next Monday evening, 10th inst., and would like to gratify him by accepting it, especially as he told Harry that he would highly appreciate my presence on the occasion; but I do not feel quite justified in going to New York simply for that purpose. If it were considerably further along in the Spring, I would not hesitate, as it would be a pleasanter time to make you all a visit. The card I have received is a very large and elegantly engraved one, illustrated in the corners with human figures representing Europe, Asia, America, and Africa. As

the sub-marine cable is ingeniously coiled and extended so as to touch the four quarters of the globe, I suppose the gathering has reference to it. But I would like to be informed a little more definitely about it.

I was much gratified to receive a letter from Harry yesterday, warmly commending my rejoinder to Mr. Blaine in the Tribune. Indeed, I am equally pleased and surprised to see how favorably it is regarded by the press generally. I am receiving on all hands the strongest expressions of satisfaction in regard to it. I need not say that your cordial approval was fully appreciated. I am much obliged to you for sending me the printed comments upon my replication contained in your last letter. I wish the President's veto had been more emphatic and less technical, but, nevertheless, I am thankful it has saved us from disgrace.

With most affectionate regards to Mrs. McKim and the dear children, I remain,

Your loving Father.

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